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 Head, William
 Freidheim, Terry W.
 Capen, Richard
 Org. Members of
 Congress for
 Peace Through Law

2 in Pentagon Accused Of 'Security Breach'

By Michael Getler

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Rep. William S. Moorhead (D-Pa.) accused two high level Defense Department officials of apparent "breaches of security" yesterday and called for the resignation of both.

Moorhead's charges, leveled at Jerry W. Freidheim, deputy assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, and Richard G. Capen Jr., the chief legislative aide to the Secretary of Defense, grow out of the Pentagon's handling of a 150-page critique of military spending made public July 15 by a special committee of the Members of Congress for Peace Through Law, an informal group headed by Sen. Mark O. Hatfield (D-Ore.) and including ten other senators and 16 representatives, including Moorhead.

At a press briefing July 16, Freidheim claimed the report contained classified information and that the committee had been so advised in a July 8 letter from Capen to Hatfield.

Moorhead charges that the Pentagon actually had somehow gotten a draft copy of the report early in June. One MCPL committee staffer says, "It was stolen."

Capen's letter offered the Pentagon's "assistance in providing a security review."

According to MCPL staff members, there was no other communication between the committee and the Pentagon between July 8 and 15, when the report was released. Hatfield's reply to Capen, in which he said the report's source material was publicly available, was dated July 15 and didn't reach the Pentagon until July 17.

Freidheim's press conference charges stirred up some members of Congress and other critics who claimed that such a report seemed to lend officials credibility to otherwise unsubstantiated and uncolated press reports. Its also stirred up the 1.6 million member Veterans of Foreign Wars, whose national commander accused the MCPL yesterday of "dangerous irresponsibility."

Counterattacking, Moorhead accused the Pentagon of "grossly abusing" the security question. He said that this "whole question was raised in an attempt to intimidate the Congress and discredit this report."

Moorhead said that if sensitive material was included, "strong, quiet measures should have been taken to prevent distribution" rather than using it "for propaganda material" after its release.

Both he and a spokesman for Hatfield say the Pentagon to this date has failed to identify specific sections that are allegedly classified.

If the report did have such information, then, Moorhead asserts, Freidheim was guilty of "a severe breach of national security" in announcing it. "Now the Russians will comb it to see if they missed anything."